

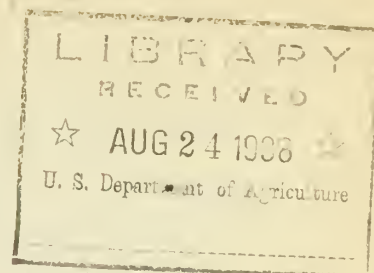
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1.95 U.S. Farm Security Administration  
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ABERDEEN GARDENS PROJECT  
OF THE FARM SECURITY ADMINISTRATION



Aberdeen Gardens, near Newport News, Virginia, was built by the Farm Security Administration to provide homes and gardens for 158 low-income Negro families.

Housing for low-income workers in Newport News does not meet adequate standards. The majority of the working families live in old frame homes that are often lighted with coal oil lamps, have no running water, central heating, or bathrooms. This is particularly true of the Negro homes. Aberdeen Gardens was designed to give these colored families a chance to buy or rent good homes. Furthermore, in order that the workers could profitably use the seasonal summer slack in employment, and to show the value of a large carefully cultivated garden, each house was placed on a half-acre tract.

The 444 acre project lies approximately 4 miles from the shopping center of Newport News. There are 52 three room houses, 80 of four rooms, and 26 five room houses. All are two stories high and simply designed. They have brick veneer walls, concrete foundations, wood shingle roofs, are thoroughly insulated, and have garage-laundries attached.

A community building that will also serve as a school is located near the center of the community. It is one story in height, has a concrete foundation, walls of concrete block with brick veneer, and a slate roof. Six large school rooms compose the main part of the structure.



An auditorium that has a stage, seating capacity of four hundred, and can be converted into a gymnasium is located in the wing. It is heated by coal burning furnaces with a hot air system. All rooms are well-lighted, have high ceilings, and plaster walls.

The rent of the various sized units for the first year will be from \$11.50 to \$18.00.

Three room houses rent at \$11.50 and \$12.50 per month  
Four room houses rent at \$13.50 and \$16.00 per month  
Five room houses rent at \$15.50 and \$18.00 per month

After a years trial period it is proposed that the homes will be offered to satisfactory tenants on monthly purchase contracts.

The sewerage system has been approved by state health officials and connects with the county system. Water is obtained from the Newport News water system. Bus service to Newport News is being made available. The county will provide the teachers for the grammar school located in the community building and the high school students will be transported to Hampton.

From the very start the development of Aberdeen Gardens was almost entirely in the hands of Negroes. On the project site the personnel was all colored, with but one exception. At the peak of operations some 870 workers were employed. Roughly 2/3 of this group were white collar or skilled workers. At that time 148 carpenters, 115 bricklayers, 26 painters, and 56 plumbers were at work. White collar workers included cost accountants, engineers and foremen.

Application forms for houses may be obtained by calling at or telephoning the project office.

